

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A device for manipulating and dispensing multiple filaments, comprising:
at least three plates each having at least one machined hole of a predetermined diameter, wherein the at least three plates are configured to adjustably align to one another, and at least one of the at least three plates may be shifted in a horizontal direction with regard to the remaining plates to secure the multiple filaments in the device; and
a holding mechanism configured to orient and support the at least three plates.
2. The device of claim 1, wherein the at least one machined hole is configured to permit unrestricted passage of a plurality of filaments in a vertical direction.
3. The device of claim 2, wherein the plurality of filaments are capillary tubes.
4. The device of claim 2, wherein the plurality of filaments are optical fibers.
5. The device of claim 2, wherein the plurality of filaments are light guiding capillary tubing.
6. The device of claim 1, wherein a plate pattern of the at least three plates corresponds to one of a 96, 384 and 1536 well plate design pattern.
7. The device of claim 1, wherein the holding mechanism comprises:
at least one tension device configured to actuate at least one of the at least three plates into one of a locked and unlocked position; and
holder means configured to secure the at least three plates into the device.
8. The device of claim 7, wherein the at least one tension device is adjustable.

9. The device of claim 1, wherein at least one surface of at least one of the least three plates is machined with a chamfer.

10. A method for manipulating and dispensing filaments, comprising:
loading a plurality of filaments in machined holes of a device having at least three plates;
shifting at least one of the at least three plates in a horizontal direction with respect to the remaining plates to secure the plurality of filaments into the device; and
manipulating the plurality of filaments to permit contact with a sample of an analytical application.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising:
analyzing the samples of the analytical application; and
unloading the plurality of filaments from the device.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein analyzing the samples includes at least one of transferring and dispensing the samples of the analytical application.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein unloading the plurality of filaments includes shifting at least one plate in a horizontal direction with respect to the remaining plates to release the plurality of filaments from the device.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein unloading the plurality of filaments further includes one of disposing of the plurality of filaments and cleaning the plurality of filaments for re-use.